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ABSTRACT

In April and May 1974, the Center of Continuing Education and Community Service of the University of Hawaii at Hilo sponsored a course for 41 members of the Hui Aloha senior citizens club. Between 39 and 44 students, ranging in age from 60 to 93, participated in an experimental workshop program which involved four 8-hour tours of colleges and museums, and lectures by artists subsidized by the Artists in Residence Program. While a great deal of information was covered, this noncredit course did not require tests or essays. This document reviews the steps taken to develop the course, describes the physical arrangements, and gives a detailed description of each of the four sessions. Seven recommendations for senior citizen education are given based on the course, and other educational programs for the elderly are briefly surveyed. (NHM)

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EDUCARE FOR THE ELDERLY: HAWAII'S POST 60 STUDENTS RESPOND TO A TRIAL HUMANITIES COURSE

BY Clarice Robinson Cox

Would the elderly really respond with interest to college level experience in the arts? Did they have the physical endurance and attention span to maintain attendance at all day, once a week, four week workshops? Did they prefer instead the less demanding activities and the traditional handcraft offerings at most senior centers?

To find out the answers, an innovative branch of the University of Hawaii, The Center of Continuing Education and Community Service in Hilo, Hawaii sponsored a course in April and May, 1974. As far back as 1961, the White House Conference on Aging had stated in "Rights of Senior Citizens"

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order point 4, "The right to a fair share of the community's recreational, educational, and medical resources." The educational right has received the least promotion, secondary even to recreational. Many senior centers were long on light weight entertainment, simple handcrafts and basic skills. The post 60 person seeking more intellectual fare had to find it for himself.

"If we can have Medicare for the body, there is no reason we can't have Educare for the mind." With these words in September, 1974, Albert Shanker, president of American Federation of Teachers added weight to a program already quietly launched in Hawaii. In accord with Federal Act 189 SB 2024-74, the Hawaii Public Act 93-29, passed in 1974, made provisions for men and women 60 or over who have one year residency to take any courses free at any branch of the University of Hawaii on a space available basis.

The island county of Hawaii is the island farthest from Oahu where the main University of Hawaii is located. Hawaii island has three branches: Hilo College, a four year college; Hawaii Community College, a two year branch, and the Center for Continuing Education and Community Service. CCECS sponsors UH at Hilo summer sessions, night school, international, interstate study programs, both credit and non-credit. It was this latter innovative branch which earmarked some special funds to experiment with the concept of post 60, post secondary education.

Would the elderly respond to college level work?

Especially in Hawaii where the children and grand children of immigrants have progressed to high places through education the learning process has been prized. Most of the older citizens had made many sacrifices to

see that their children could succeed. Now the state was giving the seniors a chance at free education, but the idea was so new it was not even mentioned in the state's own Comprehensive Plan for the Elderly, prepared for the State Commission on Aging, Dec. 15, 1974.

At a January, 1975 workshop sponsored by the Office of Aging, County of Hawaii, there were five meetings to give various groups a chance to explore education. Some educators and museum personnel were skeptical about college courses:

> Oh, sure, some will sign for ceramics or painting but forget the art history - too demanding.
>
> Give them a fifteen minute tour of the museum - it has usually satisfied folks their age.
>
> They won't have the mental or physical stamina.

The elders themselves recorded concerns at these exploratory meetings:

> People act like just because you are old you are stupid. When I got mixed up trying to register they just talked louder and pointed to the words. I can read and I can hear. I just don't know the system!
>
> How would I find my way around the campus? And I'm so rusty about using the library.
>
> I'm afraid of tests. Maybe I don't know how to study.
>
> Could we have help writing essays? I haven't written anything but a letter in years.
>
> Could we have a course in women's rights and all that? Just look around. Women live longer. We can still study. We women are the ones who stayed home, now let's catch up.
>
> Will the young think we are crazy? How about the profs?

Those who had already taken courses -- what few there were -- reassured the other elders that students and instructors had welcomed them, even in classes as demanding as anthropology with field work. However, official records showed only 15 attending the community college the first term and none the four year college. In Spring, 1975, 11 were listed at Hawaii

Community College and 4 at Mills College. With 8,858 visitors it is hoped [illegible] for free post secondary education, this is one mark of [illegible].

Experimental workshop for an existing organization was in the articles requested by Mrs. Mary Kirkpatrick, Director of the Center for Continuing Education and Community Service. The Bat Mitzva was a many as [illegible], well informed group of people ranging in age from 60 to 85 and [illegible] Rosenblatt, Senior Citizens Center for a wide ranging variety of [illegible]. In Spring, 1973, there were planned among the lectures in [illegible] program, the colleges and museums. Bonsai lectures had been [illegible] by the State Foundation for Culture and the Arts. The group [illegible] as [illegible] personality known Dancer as well as a weaver, photographer, an [illegible], ceramics and painter, living in small communities and especially [illegible] "the type of art experience available only in large cities. [illegible] faculty and museum personnel also cooperated.

Physical arrangements were important. Orchestral and [illegible] Hall, hosting the Bat Mitzva Group of Friendship organizations [illegible] handicap orientations and certifications with one chair missing out of [illegible] most very assembly. A box was reserved to transport elderly [illegible] more convenient. A seating plans was utilized by Dallas [illegible], a well museum, part of the Hennis County Parks and Recreation system. The [illegible] attraction, it has an exhibit which changes every few months, [illegible]. It has not received the public interest it deserved. Seating [illegible] pitched two things: (1) to give the elderly a place to park[illegible] so he left off and picked up alone the senior center did not [illegible] close parking, and (2) the museum was there to be enjoyed as[illegible] activity and also provided good restrooms on the ground floor. Availability of

[illegible] host a wedding for, understandably encouragement to [illegible] Jewish to Scripture, and, of course, everyone are especially needed by the [illegible]. Atlantic, proprietors of Southside has considerable effect on products and to the problems of all ages here often that to recognize to the failure or success of learning participate.

The Bible Bible Are Impressive was arranged by a community college [illegible] who had been involved in popular young male back to America for [illegible] students to Bluffton Community College's introduction to Modern Bible course. Those have been described as Acts 28 (27 Jul), "Going Young Free Tonic Types to Youth Experiences to Americans's Lower Cost." Students [illegible] to go out to events of pleasure and help and studies course where [illegible] to minutes did not regularly leads to thought. The devotional categories, provided to all participants, Scripture.

Objective to provide [illegible] and [illegible]

Sponsored by Indiana Tri Cybernetics Organization and Community Services, Incorporated of Region 10 Area, Ohio West Metropolitan, Ohiowide.

Bill Wilma [illegible] Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel Harris, [illegible] Miss Vivienne Fox, team president

Schedule Times. Meet at 9:00 a.m. on April 17 and 18, May 1 and 15 at Harlow Center. Study in private with a Leader and then Bible Fun. Bring lunch for all except May 15. Dismiss at noon or 1:00 p.m.

April 17 Travel to Ivy to Delaware, meeting Rick Lakewood and Bill Merrick, [illegible] Administrative of Arts and Crafts. Lunch at Whitehaven Motel Lakeview, with Bill Wayne Vivienne arranged by Fox Enterprises. Recreation, Meeting Cross Ring in and talk to Friends Bill Harris. Mrs. Ann Morrison, Author, and Bruce Morrison, photographer.

April 18 Travel to Ivy to Independence Bldg. Miss Vivienne, Mr. Ann Hansen, Secretary, Bill Rose, Arts West Acting Director to Mrs. Lake Cross Artist, Margaret's residence. Afternoon Bill to be free to take Study. Dine in restaurant for which cost to Hansen Bus to Marion Point Four Lodge Lakeview. For lunch, Cliffs Museum Wrought, Artist to Middlebury, and Bus Depot going Bill provide at 2:00. Travel to Region Wright's Gardens of Indianola

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [

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